TIMES-VI

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE, VIRGINIA

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County enrolls in state program

Appomattox County became officially enrolled in the state's new "Community Certification Program" this week.

At a luncheon Monday, David Dickson, manager of the State Division of Industrial Development's community services, presented county Special Projects Assistant Bill Britton with the documents necessary for Appomattox County's completion of the community certification program requirements.

The Community Certification program, which was launched July 1 of last year, consists of a set of standards which a community must meet in order to achieve priority status for referral by the Division of Industrial Development when new businesses and industries are seeking locations in the state.

Appomattox County has 18 months to meet the standards of the program. The standards cover a broad spectrum ranging from community information and financing requirements, to site and building requirements.

David Nash, president of the Appomattox County Development Corporation, is the designated official in the county's effort to gain certification in this program.

Local chairmen of the program committees include Herbert Chambers (Community Information), Dr. J. A. Mathews (Quality of Life and Local Existing Industry), Forrest Sheargest (Local Contact Team), and Monte W. Mays, (Finance Capabilities and Sites and Buildings).

At Monday's meeting Dickson told the local officials gathered there that the Divison of Industrial Development's goals for Virginia as a whole are "increased capital investments in communities, and to provide more basic job opportunities for Virginia citizens."

Dickson said that a vital component in the Coummunity of Certification Program is "the attitude of the community. That's why we seek the cooperation of a wide segment of the community in completing the requirements for certification."

Among those agencies which will assist in the certification effort are the Appomattox County Development Corporation, the Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce, the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, local clubs and civic organizations, county and town governments and Virginia Electric and Power Company which has volunteered to edit and print a community profile brochure for prospective new industries.

The community profile is one of several documents which must be researched and compiled to meet the requirements for certification. In addition, an audio-visual presentation must be produced about Appomattox County, with emphasis on its suitability for location of new and varied types of industry and business. When all information needed for certification is gathered and put into the form specified in the program's requirements, it will represent a package readily available for review by the firms referred to Appomattox County by the Division of Industrial Development.

Dickson noted that, as of Monday, 28 communities, including small cities and counties, had enrolled in the Community Certification Program.

"This program is not designed to be easy," Dickson said. "But, upon certification, a community will have all the information necessary to seriously talk with a prospective new industry."

Dickson added that the certification is good for three years. After that three-year period, updating of the community certification information and recertification to the program is required.

MRS. LOUISE MARTIN, center, has been named chairman of the Appomattox County Department of Social Service Board of Directors. Herbert Richardson, right, is vice-chairman and David S. Nash, left, is new member. The county welfare board was reorganized at it's meeting held on Jan. 27.

Chamber looks at trade show

A trade show in Appomattox County could draw as many as 4,000 people to view the goods and services offered by local businesses.

That's the information given to the Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce by two representatives of the Southside Virginia Trade Show at the local chamber's board meeting Monday night.

Martha Daniel and Ralph Winters who worked on the 1983 Southside Virginia Trade Show sponsored by the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce, told Appomattox County Chamber officials Monday that the trade show is "a small town's answer to the big city mall."

Daniel said that the Southside Virginia Trade Show, which was held Nov. 5-6 last year drew an estimated 4,00 persons to view display booths in the Planters Warehouse. The booths featured goods and services offered by the many merchants participating in the trade show.

Board member Bill Burke, who first suggested the idea of a trade show for Appomattox County last year, noted that two key factors which will determine whether Appomattox County can stage a trade show successfully are the local merchants' willingness to participate, and the availability of an indoor facility large enough to accomodate the trade show.

Daniel, who was chairman of last year's Southside Virginia Trade Show, noted that the intent of the trade show is "to allow local merchants to show people the things that have to offer, which people may not even know that have."

She added that the show was a profitable project for the Blackstone chamber last year, with a net of approximately $2,200 going to the chamber's coffers after the show.

The Appomattox Chamber board members agreed to canvass the general membership to see if there is sufficient interest in the trade show concept to warrent pursuing the project.

Board members also voted at their meeting Monday night to hold a breakfast meeting for the general membership March 9 at 7:30 at the County Fare Restaurant.

Chamber president Lloyd Vaughan noted that the trade-show concept is one item which can be discussed at the breakfast meeting. The board members hope to make the breakfast meetings regular monthly meetings or bi-monthly events on the chamber's yearly general membership calendar.

Long-standing business closes

By FRANCES ABBITT

After serving the people of Appomattox and the surrounding areas for 36 years, Poe Hardware Company, Inc. closed its doors for the last time on Saturday, Feb. 4.

"Closing the business has been a difficult decision for all of us," said Helen Mae Beaty, only daughter of the founder, and co-owner-operator of the store. "Business has been marginal for several years and we really think this is a wise decision."

When Clarence Poe, an Appomattox native, opened his hardware store in 1946 he was no stranger to the hardware business. He began working for Appomattox Hardware Company at age 20. At age 30 Poe and the former Blanche Babcock, also an Appomattox native, were married.

After some years at Appomattox Hardware, Poe and his family moved to Lynchburg during World War II years.

Too old for service, he went to work for the Lynchburg Foundry, working seven days a week, double shifts. As he was keeping busy at the foundry his wife opened a dormitory for Phillips Business College students.

In 1948 Poe moved his family back to Appomattox and opened his own hardware store "on a shoe string," according to family members. The business was located on the south side of the railroad tracks. In June of 1946 Poe bought the old Ford Motor Company lot on Church Street (the present location) and in 1947 added the front to the building. After 1951 storage buildings and an addition were constructed.

During his first years in business, Poe made service calls after closing time. He returned to the store many times after hours during the week and on weekends, often in the middle of the night for emergencies, according to family members. He remained open on Christmas Eve until 9 p.m. for the convenience of his customers.

"Daddy believed he was here to love and serve his fellowman and he set that example for us as a family," said his daughter, Helen Beaty.

"Kyle Coleman, beginning his work with Poe in 1948, was a long-time dedicated employee who remained with the company until the decision to close was made. Other dedicated long-time employees were Hugh Mitchell and Robert Childress. Childress and Doug Martin, another dedicated employee opened the power saw shop in 1958. A host of other fine employees and D. E. students helped make the business a success," said a family member.

In 1966 Helen Mae Poe Beaty and her husband, James Beaty, a native of Auburn, Alabama, came to Appomattox and began working at the hardware. Beaty had worked in agriculture all his life prior to coming to Appomattox.

In 1965 Poe Hardware joined American Hardware.

In 1973 Poe and his wife, Blanche, who had worked side by side through the years, retired. Poe had suffered his first heart attack prior to retirement. He died on March 11, 1976.

The Poes were the parents of three children. In addition to their only daughter Helen Beaty, they have a son, Clarence Poe Jr., (Buddy) who lives in Newport News and works for NASA. He and his wife, the former Madeline Guill, a school nurse, have three children.

A younger son, Richard, is a practicing dentist here in Appomattox. He is married to the former Teresa Ragland; she is a registered nurse with the Farmville dialysis unit.

The Beatys have four children and four grandchildren.

Poe Hardware Company, Inc. has always been a family business. Poe and his wife worked together for 27 years, and all of the Poe children have worked in the family business, in addition to all four of the Beaty children.

"Our family has and will continue to cherish the many warm relationships that have developed through our business," said Beaty.

"On behalf of our entire family I want to thank the people of Appomattox and surrounding counties for their patronage and support over the years," Beaty concluded.

VocEd to be topic

The Appomattox County School Division will observe National Vocational Education Week during the set aside period of February 12-18. This special time is appropriate to think about the importance of vocational education to our community and to our nation.

At a time when excellence in education is a top priority on the national agenda, the theme for the week is Vocational Education: Creating Partnerships for Excellence clearly communicates the ideal link that should exist between vocational education and the community. Vocational education is charged with preparing people for work and achieves its goal of excellence through partnerships with students, community agencies, trade associations, business and industry.

Specifically, two major events are being planned for citizens in Appomattox County. On Thursday night, February 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. "open house" in the vocational education departments at Appomattox County High School will be held. The general public is cordially invited to take advantage of this opportunity to become acquainted with the vocational programs. The program planned for the "open house" affair will begin with a slide presentation as an overview of the vocational education programs, followed by a series of guided tours. A spokesman for each vocational program will be giving a brief explanation of the training being provided. Students will, also, be demonstrating the type of skills being developed. The second event will be the addition of a vocational education supplement to the local newspaper, The Times-Virginian.

Lions meeting is Thursday

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet tomorrow (Thursday) night at 6:45 p.m. at the Country Fare Restaurant.

Guest speaker for the dinner meeting will be Clarence Stine, of the Appomattox County Health Department.

All members are urged to attend.

Davis to visit here Thursday

Dr. John S. Davis, state superintendent for public instruction, will be guest speaker at the Appomattox Elementary School's PTA meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 9.

Davis will speak on issues pertinent to public education today, ranging from the master teacher plan and new accreditation standards, to budgeting concerns, the role of parents in public education, and the proposed magnet schools.

A question/discussion period will follow Davis' address.

Following the program, the school will be open for parents to tour the facilities and view projects and artwork done by the students.

Pamplin pursues water

The Town of Pamplin City is continuing its effort to solicit grant funds for the upgrading and extension of existing waterworks facilities. James E. May and Associates, the Lynchburg Engineering Firm that is preparing plans and processing the grant application, has requested the Appomattox County Health Department to conduct a survey of the on-site water systems for each residence and place of business within the Town Corporate Limits served by a central water supply.

In response to this request, Mr. Clarence Stine, Appomattox County Sanitarian and Mr. Bob Rose, Sanitarian from the Lynchburg Health Department, will begin an Environmental Survey to determine the adequacy of water quality and quantity, type of wastewater disposal, and the proximity of septic tanks, privies, etc. to wells supplying water to the properties. The survey is to be completed by February 28, 1984.

The cooperation of the citizens of Pamplin in supplying information to the persons conducting the survey will greatly enhance the survey process and speed the completion of the grant application.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Weatherwise we expect the worst during February. And often get it. "Button Up Your Overcoat" is the password. Like Monday morning of this week, when the greeting was to remind friends of predictions of "down to ten." Word was passed of snow reports. By way of TV and radio we know the temperature in Peoria, Duluth and Seattle. Our warning systems alert us and we are zealous to be prepared. Birds receive favored attention. At the moment small birds are gorging at my windowside feeder. The Herbert Abbitts reported six Red Cardinals. Welcome guests. Ah yes, it is a long way off to March 20, first day of Spring.

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I think Appomattox is well situated. We may not see the first robin or the last icicle, but we get our share of goodies. February is a coquette. At three a.m. Monday I looked out and saw several stars, and a slice of New Moon.

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Shane Abernathy, former ACHS basketball star, saw his Roanoke College team lose after 16 straight wins. Law of averages. But Shane scored 18 points in the first loss.

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Our fine Extension Agent, Jim Smith, supplies us with information about gardens, etc. but he is also proud of his Alma Mater, Clemson University. I asked how the school got its name and right off he told me about Thomas Greene Clemson, a Pennsylvania native, who married Distinguished John C. Calhoun's daughter, gave land to establish a Land Grant University in South Carolina. About 1892 and the school received his name. Thanks.

Knock, knock at the door and my friend, Ronald Paulette was there to give me a copy of Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer. Mr. and Mrs. (Martha) Paulette are back from a delightful visit with their daughter and husband, Cathy and Kevin Haskins. Glad to hear details of their trip and the interesting and historical places they saw while in Philly. Mentioned Independence Hall and its wealth of historical documents and mementos. And a special thanks for the hot ham biscuits!

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Sure will miss Poe Hardware in town, now closed after a long record of service to the area. Good downtown location for someone.

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Read an article asking for lists of old things that still work. How about this veteran portable typewriter, the good luck rabbit foot I carry in my pocket and my 1963 automobile.

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Twice a year I read Bruce Barton's book about The Bible titled The Book Nobody Knows. My copy is so marked with underscored lines and marginal notes twould be slow reading for anyone. Examples: there are 2,728,100 letters in the Old Testament; 838,380 in the New, total entire Bible, 3,566,480. Psalms is the longest book. Psalm 119 the longest chapter Ezra 7:21 contains all but one of the 26 letters of the English alphabet. Surely your home has at least one Bible. Read it. February is a good month for reading.

And thanks for reading.

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THE LATE CLARENCE C. POE, SR., and his wife, the former Blanche Babcock, founded Poe Hardware Co. Inc. in 1946. Poe was no stranger to the hardware business, having gained experience at the Appomattox Hardware Co. Inc. soon after getting out of School. The store, in business since 1946 remained a family business until closing last week.

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